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## Mary a Casseday

## THE VOLPENNA VERTICAL WRITING LESSONS.

A COMPLETE MANUAL FOR LEARNING AND TEACHING THIS ORIGINAL SYSTEM.
R. K. ROW,

Principal Training School, KINGSTON, ONT.
A. F. NEWLANDS, Supervisor of Penmansip, Kingston Public scihools.

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## TO OUR PATRONS.

- 4 -

T
HE PHENOMENAL success that followed the introduction of Vertical Writing in the schools of our city, brought us from educators all over America many urgent requests for aids and suggestions for its adoption in other places. This work has been prepared in response to these demands. It is, therefore, essentially a teacher's book, designed to promote the reform through the schools. We hope, however, business and professional men will find in it all necessary guidance to changing and improving their boindwriting.

The lessons are not submitted as the winatum in the natter of penmanship. Nearly all our work is based on recent experiments, and deeper study and further experience may show the desirability of still further changes. To this end we shall be glad if teachers, or others, will send us criticisms or suggestions growing out of their observations and experience.

N

## INTRODUCTION.

 subject in the curriculum of elementary schools has all along occupied moreattention than writing Able men have devoted their lives to its improvement, normal schools and teachers' institutes have laid spectial stress upon it, educational papers have given it an honored place, special teachers and supervisors have been employed, and regular teachers have devoted to it' a large share of attention. Notwithstanding all this the writing of the masses has degenerated and there has been no real satisfaction with the results even in the schools. Everywhere a feeling of unrest seems to prevail. Husiness men have been forced to acquire a hand very different from that taught in the schools, and have had to insist upon their young assistants learning a new style. It has been ob-served that the hand acquired under the demands for speed and legibility is in the great majority of cases entirely different from the standard of our schools and business colleges.

The style of writing now known as the vertical, originated as a system in Europe, and strange to say, was at first a product of hygienic rather than of pedagogical investigation. Eminent medical specialists seeking long and carefully the causes of the increasing prevalence of deffective sight, spinal deformity, etc., at last traced them to sloping writing. Experiments, with a view to removing these evils, led to the discovery that vertical writing is most natural in every way, not only the most legible, but admits of the easiest position, consequently of the greatest rapidity with the smallest amount of effort, and is most easily learned by children:

In our investigation and experiments we tried the European forms of letters, but soon found many of them stiff and cramped and the whole system without a central idea for either form or movement. We decided go directly to the Roman type for our models. Some of these forms we found it desirable to modify for simplicity and grace.

Our next departure was in studying the forms used by business and professional men noted for their rapid and legible wrifing. This supplied us with many new suggestions and still more strongly confirmed us in our conclusions that simple, round, Roman-like forms are most rapid and legible.

The vast majority of the thousands of pupils with whom we have experimented had been trained long and
carefully in the sloping style, and we naturally encountered considerable difficulty in overcoming the preformed concepts of form and the habits of position, movement. etc. With the pupils, however, the change soon became popular and this greatly facilitated the transifion. When, moreover, the regular teacher was in hearty sympathy with the reform, and took pains to make all her blackboard and other writing conform to the new ideas the difficulties rapidly disappeared. Thus we were enabled to make repeated experiments with all grades of children.

We expect many persons will be astonished and disappointed with some of our letter forms. Indeed we, should have been so ourselves a year ago. Having found that the professional penmen have all been on the wrong track we were ready to give any reasonable idea an honest trial. We concluded that a system of legible,

easy writing could not be developed from what the penmen thought it whould be, but from what hundreds of the most rapid, legible business writers said by their practice it must be.

Writing has but one main purpose, the communication of thoughts. This has two important relations. To the reader, that is the best writing from which he can get thought most rapidly and with least strain updn the eyes. These conditions prevail in round, upright letters without hair lines, i. e. as much like roman type as is consistent with graee and easè.

To the writer tbat is the best style that admits of the most hygienie position, the easiest movement, and the greatest rapidity.

We" have, therefore, endeavored to develop a system that is easy to read, easy to write and easy to learn.

## SUGGESTIONS.

## TIME NECESSARY TO LEARN WRITING.

T0 teachers we would say, there seems no reason why it should take children so many years to learn to "make plainly and rapidly the fifty-two characters used in writing. We believe much time has in the past been wasted; but that with simpler forms, easier movements, and more rational methods, this work can be well done during the first three or four years of school life, that thereafter no special lessons need be given in writing. It will, of course, be necessary to see that pupils do all their written *work with care, and here lies the great secret of teaching writing. In careless or hurried scribbling a child, may undo a dozen times a day all that he gained in the 'brief special lesson.
-
2. Skill in the use of an instrument can be acquired only by regular and continued handling.
3. Pupils always exercise most care with work they know must be permanent.

## POSITION.

OSITION is a matter of much importance and one regarding which there is still considerable difference of opinion. In our investigations we availed ourselves of the experience of the-European, teachers and from this the best position we found for a long time was that illustrated by Figs. 1,2 and $3 ; 1$ and 2 representing different sized boys, at the same sized desk. The main objection to this position is that the arms are too much spread, but this is almost
acquired entirely due to the fact that in most criss-rooms the desks are too high for the writers. Undue height of



F1G. 2.
desks did not appear to be such a serious objection for oblique writing, because it tends to put the hand and arm in the unnatural position approved for that style. Ob-
servations and experiments made more recently have shown that an easier and freer position especially at the high desks is that represented in Fig. 9. The paper is placed near the edge of the desk and the arm rests lightly upon the upper part of the wrist, the elbows hanging easily at the side, the weight of the arm being principally supported from the shoulder.

It does not seem wise to prescribe any exact position, or require all pupils to sit in precisely the same way ; nor should they be expected to keep one position very long at a time. It is better to allow some latitude within the limits of ease, grace and hygiene.

The best position is the most healthful one. The writer should sit well back in the seat, the feet resting upon the floor, the spine in a normal position, the lody only slightly inelined forward, shoulders even. The head
may incline a little forward, but not to one side, though with high desks there will be tendency to do this unless pupils occupy the position shown in Fig. 9. The arms rest equally upon the desk anywhere between the wrist and the middle of the fore arm, but the weight of the body should not be thrown upon these.

Any unevenness of the shoulders or unnatural curving of the spine may be best seen from behind the writer, and will usually show itself in the irregular drawing of the clothing.

## POSITION DRILL.

$S$
OME teachers experience more or less difficulty in getting the members of a class to assume promptly, or retain for even a few minutes, anything like a uniform position. This difficulty will be especially felt in the adoption of a new system of writing, there being a con-
side, though this unless The arms on the wrist ight of the atural curvthe writer, drawing of
difficulty in e promptly, thing like a cially felt in being a con-
tinual tendency to settle into old positions. The older the pupils the more marked this tendency. An effective way of training into right habits or correcting wrong ones,


is to have pupils practice the following drill at the beginning of the lesson and during its progress as often as seems necessary or desirable.

Position 1.-The pupil sitting well back in the seat, feet level on the floor and hands folded in lap. Fig. 3. Position 2.-Keaches forward and clasps the pen with his right hand. Fig. 4.


Position 3.-Holding the pen extends both arms straight in front on a level with the shoulders. Fig. 5.

Position 4--Brings both arms down on the desk in writing position. Fig. 6.

## PENHOLDING.

$T$N teaching vertical writing penholding presents but liftle difficulty. The best position is the easiest, and the one that is taken naturally by at least seventy-five per cent of the little children whose hand-position has not been previously spoiled by the use of short pencils. Figs. 2, 7 and 8 show a natural position of the hand when the desk is of the proper height. The pen is held easily between the thumb and second finger and steadied by the first finger nearly straight resting upon it, the end about one inch from the point.

Some children have a tendency to grip the pen or from the use of pencils have formed the habit of doing so, as in Fig. In. This may be corrected by simply requiring the pupils to extend the first finger till it is nearly straight. When the pen is held in an easy position the handle
both arms Fig. 5 he desk in


FIG. 7.
points out to the right or along the fore arm, and the back of the hand is turned from the body more than in the approved position for sloping writing.


Fig. 8.

## FOR LEFT HAND WRITERS.

T has always been thought by many teachers that left hand pupils should be trained to write with the right hand and a great deal of time has been wasted in this direction. We think it better to give such pupils the same careful instruction suited to their case as is given to right hand pupils and the same degree of encouragement. It is quite probable that when the ease with which vertical writing may be acquired is generally recognized and the psychological value of the equal developement of both sides of our body becomes more generally known, children will be taught to write with both hands.

Having observed that many left hand writers place the paper with the lines at right angles to the edge of the desk, experiments were made with pupils who had been trained to write with the paper in the usual position. In
achers that left with the right wasted in this ch pupils the se as is given of encouragese with which Uy recognized velopement of erally known, unds.
writers place e edge of the ho had been position. In
almost every case it was found that, from the first, with the lines at right angles to the edge of the desk they could write better and with more ease than in the old way.

As will be seen in the illustration, Fig. Io the position of the body is the same as that for right hand writers. The hand is turned more toward the back, and the handle of the pen points farther from the body than when held in the right hand.
$\omega$

## MOVEMENT.

W
RITERS of the dblique systems have always rivalled one another in movement. To get a free arm movement has been the aim of *every ambitious teacher. This was necessary. A finger movement in sloping writing always tends to cramping. When the arm is used it may tire. but
there is no cramping. In vertical writing it is quite different. ${ }_{\square}$ The hand occupies such a natural position that the fingers might be used exclusively by the hour without . weariness. This is one of the reasons that vertical writing can be done with so much greater ease than the old style. Guiding a pen over the surface of paper requires but little efort, and it is a waste of energy to use more arm than is necessary for work that can be done with the utmost ease almost exclusively by the thumb and fingers. From this it must not be inferred that there is no arm movement iu vertical writing. All use it more or less. With many persons, especially children, it is almost imperceptible, except as the arm slides from left to right. Some persons naturally use it a great deal. It is very important to know and bear in mind that the movement is quite unlike that for sloping writing.

$$
-13-
$$

A sort of rolling motion, mainly down and right, which is alone capable of producing the bold, round forms that characterize our system. Here lies the special danger of those who have had most careful training in the other style.

To simply change the position of the body and of the paper, and with the old movement, write the old letterforms in an upright position means certain failure and disgust. Learners of this class must burn the bridge between themselves and their old ideas and habits of writing.

At first it may be necessary to lift the arm from time to time as it moves to the right, but soon it will be found to slide along without conscious effort. It also seems necessary to lift the pen more freqently than is approved
in sloping writing, and our copies provide for this ,but it will not be found an objection. The idea that to lift the pen is to lose time seems to be without foundation. In many cases the skips are more rapid than the joinings.

## THE COPIES.

O
UR copies are not perfect. A letter will not be found to be made the same every time. To have them so is possible when the copies are laboriously dfawn out and the plates hand engraved.

These, however do not make good copies from which to learn writing. Even young children feel the influence of their exact, rigid, mechanical appearance and they at once degin to draw out the letters in a way almost as labored as that of the original copy maker. One of these recently told us it sometimes took him an hour to make
ide for this ,but it lea that to lift the ut foundation. In tan the joinings.
letter will not be every time. To in the copies are nd engraved.
opies from which feel the influence ance and they at a way almost as er. One off these ${ }^{-}$ an hour to make
a single letter. Who would call such work writing? What the learner needs and wants is a good copy that he is conscious was freely written and can be written again if only he can acquire the skill. Already a large number of places have discontinued the use of copy books with engraved headlines. In some cases the teachers scarcely knew why except that they could not get satisfactory results.

All the copies in this work are photo-engraved from freely written originals. They combine all that, was valuable in the engraved work with the great advantage of a copy coming as from the living hand, produced with just such tools and materials as the pupil has and under similar conditions.
-
Note.-To our professional friends we would say, all the copies in this work were written a half larger thatl they appear and with a very
coarse pen. The same grade of pen was not used throughout, hence some of the copies appear stronger than others. No attempt has been made to filt in, as we believe that copies in the rough are vastly suporior for the learner to those of the most perfect finish.

The necessity for large, bold type in children's books has long been recognized. The value of large forms in children's copies is even greater. Every effort of the eye to read, to observe likenesses and differences in the forms and to obtain clear, accurate concepts, as well as of the hand to reproduce the mental picture formed, is much eaiser than with copies of the ordinary size. Little children never take kindly to fine work. Their sewing, knitting, drawing or paper cutting is always coarse, There is behind this a natural law that applies with equal force to writing. Moreover, no practice is better than writing these large forms for developing confidence and ease in writing.

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-15-
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## KIND OF PEN.

## OPY-BOOK and pen makers have long contended

that fine pens conduce to lightness of touch and free movement, besides in the standard oblique writing hair lines are necessary to the best effects. The first idea'led only to pen drawing and not to free writing, while the second gave us the weak, illegible scrawling that has been its usual product. For our system we

C
recommend for all grades a smooth pointed pen, capable of making a strong line, and suitable for use on even the cheapest scribbling paper. of instruction repetitions are avoided. In all kinds unnecessary elaboration of details.

## HE note COPIES.

HE notes on the copies are usually few and brief. Only matters of prime importance are touched up-

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { sinted pen, capable } \\
& \text { for use on even the }
\end{aligned}
$$

## BLACKBOARD TRACING

BLACKBOARD copies should be large and bold. When nẹw forms are first presented pupils will be so eager to try them that they will not give, good attention to explanations. - It is therefore well to allow the pupils to try their hand at these forms before making any comments. They will then be prepared to listen to instruction and to see in the form what they could not have seen before the trial was made. A valuable aid to getting clear concepts of forms is what is known as blackboard tracing. After the preliminary trial the pupils are asked to extend the arm holding the pen pointing to the beginning of the letter. While the teacher traces slowly over the form with 'a pointer the pupils follow carefully with the extended hand. At the samte time attention may

Be called to any peculiarities or anticipated difficulties in the form.

## PROMOTION FROM ONE EXERCISE TO ANOTHER.

T will be observed that in all the first half of our lessons the copies have been made with the view, to teaching one thing at a time. There is force in the objection that children, particularly, weary of doing one thing, that they must have change. This is met by the recommendation to make a certain standard of skill the basis of promotion from one exercise to the next. Pupils will then feel the strong incentive of definite aim. Desire to accomplish will supplant restless love of change. With the ong letter exercise it is easy to carry this idea too far. As soon as a fair degree of skill is acquired in making

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-17-
$$



## ISES,

e found many fads ve they developed as in the matter of abound in all sorts e practice of which agination, are sup3 certain of theletItful teacher, there in all. We believe etters to be learna form is to make uire the power to sto make it many vement exercises pe-forms, and to ; on the tasions.

## THE BEGINNING:

T has been usual to begin with the letters "i," " $u$ " and " $w$," but experiments have shown that little children more readily obtain a concept of, and more accurately reproduce, the circle than any other complete form. We have, accordingly, taken the letter most like the circle, the letter "o," for our first lesson, followed by similar forms.

Plates I to 13 inclusive are specially designed for the work of the first year at school, but when vertical writing is introduced we strongly advise that pupils of all grades, in fact all learners, should practice these exercises at first. They supply the
best possible training in freedom and strength, besides having direct bearing on actual writing. letter "o," especially when written the size of in Plate I, is the best movement exercise for acquir ing the broad round turn so characteristic of this system.

In joining the letters " $o$ " and " $c$ " it is not necessary to form the top of the letter with the upstroke but lift the peñ and begin as with the initial letter.

The " e " movement is so easy that many learners have a tendency to run it across the page without lifting the pen. This is likely to be at the
can be used to good advantage in the writing lessons. For example, in making the letter "o" they may be asked to make a picture of a pumpkin with the stem on it. When they can make one well, they may make three on one vine.

For the letter "c" suppose a little boy was rolling his hoop, it ran down a steep hill, struck a big stone and broke, Draw Willie's broken hoop.

The letter " e " and the figures " 2 " and " 3 " may be taken to represent what different boys made of their broken hoops.
in the writing the letter "o" re of a pumpkin an make one well,
a little boy was teep hill, struck Willie's broken
$s$ " 2 " and " 3 "
erent boys made

For the "a" suggest that Johnny went out to roll a snowball. He made such a big one and worked so hard that he tired himself out and sat down with his' back against it to rest. Draw the ball with Johnny against it.

A teacher was abont to give a series of lessons on " $i$," " $u$," " $w, "$ " $n$," " m," etc. Knowing that some children are apt to make the down lines crooked or slope a little to left or right, she asked the pupils if they would not like to learn to be carpenters, build houses and earn money. She explained they would all have to begin on some easy work, make shecp-pens for example for Mr. I. The
sides of the pens must be made straight and upright so they will not fall over. When they could do this well, they would be allowed to go and build double pens for Mr. U. who paid better wages. Mr. W. wanted a house with two rooms and an awning, but the children need not put on the roof.

Mr. N. was a still better man to work for. He wanted a double house with a garden at the side, and the children should now be good enough carpenters to put on the roof and finish the house.

This idea awakened so much interest and enthusiasm, and produced such good results, that it
was carried along for some time, each change renewing the interest.

To teachers who have not used such devices with little children, and to those who do not understand that inagic mirror, the child's imagination, these suggestians put into cold type will seem silly. They need the artless spirit of the primary classroom, and the loving sympathy of the teacher who
lives to help, to set them in their proper light. They are not proposed as empiric methods that every one can use, but rather as suggestions that in many ways may be adopted to varying circum. stances, or as mere hints to direct the thought of the ingenious teacher along certain lines, where she may find for herself even better devices in infinite variety.
s. ....

10000000
2 COCOCCE
उeeelele

PLATE
II.

In the " u " exercise the down-strokes should be strong vertical lines, the turn broad and round, and the up-stroke nearly straight and vertical.

The finishing stroke in these, the first year exercises, are continued to the upper line, because little children make much better forms when they have a definite place to begin and end.

The first part of the letter " $a$ " is formed like the beginning of the " $c$."
In the figure " 4 " the oblique and horizontal lines are made before the vertical.
nem
 5 UNUNUNUI b a á a a aada

PLATE III.
The letters " $m$," " $n$ " and " $x$ " have the unnecessary full length initial and final strokes to guide the children as to beginning and ending the letters. These, it will be observed, are shortened in later copies.
?

Plate III

al and final
$e$, it will be

## 8muncmum

$9 \sim \times \sim x \times x \times x$


- Liceviceice ice

I Max wax w
2. men men

## PLATE V.

Nearly all rapid writers use two forms of small " $r$ " for difierent combin first form given is usually used as the final " $r$," and after suçh letters as " $o$," " "w,", " $v$," "b" and frequently after lower loop letters. Some teachers may prefer to teach only one form during the first year.

Make the opening of the " $v$ " a full space in width.

3nvivNNVN
4 rerir rerrer
4 ũurũaré

5 crevercrevr b corn corn r
$488 \& 8888888$


8 ももtututut q du d de d dods o did didudide .

$h$ of the oval. Pro. longer than in the as it comes to the " to the " t ." ccordance with the most easily learned. to make well, is not ccountants.

Plate Vili.
I qq q q qqqa 2 quat quit qk



4 Lbbiblt
$5 b b b b b b b$

- bell bell b

"hiohhhb
8 kukskukk
q hack hack

"јј
1 ryryry refy
2 jay jay jaý

 4 y y y z yyy 5 garge garge z

beffeffffe
i furn furu ff
(1)
"

4. "
.1
5. 27

${ }^{\text {Pute }} \mathrm{xiv}$.
coinu coin coin
Qimine mine e
Grvieur view \& Q

## PLATE XV

The capitals on this plate begin with a very short horizontal curve followed by a strong straight line.

The turns in " W ," " U, , "V" \& " Y " are abont the same width as in the small letters, the difference is in the height.
":-m
K oms armsitht
We same same VIy
U quiart quart $x$

PLATE XVI.
The top part of the "T" and " $F$ " must be shofter than the botton to give all appearance of rest.

In the " 13 ," " $P$ " and " $R$ " the pen may be lifted after the down stroke, but this is a mere matter of taste or fancy. These capitals may be made rapidly in either way.

I dipper dipper $Z$
P blow blow 3 R
nimake make m-


Imajor major fy A honery honery $\mathcal{L}$ $S$ finger fingeriz


Sunday Sunday Suno

Mondary Mondary dary
Juerday Iverdany 1 Im

- 57 -

plate xid.
Wednesdany 22223333
Ihursdary Zridary 444
Saturdany Saturdany

Of what use are clouds? fou does a con get up? Can a frog walk? \& \&

MAKE YOUR LETTERS PLAIN AS PRINT.


Raisin a dried grape
Do crows sing? Q GK.
Linen made of flax $A$.

anvary "th. February 22 nd.
harch 31 st April 24 th M'ary 5th. une b th. Guly yth August s the


Plate XXiII $\qquad$
September 9 th. October 20 th '93.
november 31 st. 1 December 2 yt Conch is a marine shell. Eddy.

$5^{3 / 3}$
Plate xxiv.
Gold from the mine Quarts Salon is the claw of a bird $d$ How many faces has a cube? $K$.


Rivers drain continents Port.
Bricks are blocks of burn clay.
Urubu, a black vulture. your:
$\qquad$
What makes the clouds? Vapor. Lava from the volcano. X. X. Zither i a musical instrument $y$

In this plate we introduce the Plate XXVII.
business writing. If the individuality of size, such as we think suitable for literary and forms it is wise to allow freedom. There seems no reason for prescribing different sizes for boys and girls.

- Make your letters plain as print 12345 . Legibility and ease before speed 67890 valor is worth little without discretion. Write with an easy rolling motion@


"Nothing is impossible to a willing mind. Rule the "appetite and temper the tongue.
Lour man try rays has a perfect snowflake?
At What temperature does water freeze?

White with an easy, rolling motion.

13 ad habits gather by unseen degrees.
As brooks make rivers. rivers run to seas.
Truth has such a face and, such a mien As to be loved needs only to be seen.


Labor with what zeal we will, Something still remains undone: " Sornething uncompleted still, Waits the rising of the sun.


One thousand pounds sterling. £1000.
Six months after date d promise to pay
Eight hundred land three dóllars"."\$803.00. Kindly par to Robert 1 unner, or order


Kingston, Mar 24,1893:
Received from Clarence U Purdy Iwo hundred and six dollars in full of account to date.


Four months after dated promise
to parl Geo. L. Ifernderson FOo., or order, One hundred and tiventry three $\%$ dollars, value received."

Games Quandary.



# IMAGE EVALUATION 

 TEST TARGET (MT-3)
$j$


Photographic Sciences
Corporation

13 WEST MAIN STREET
WEBSTER, NY. 14580
(716) 872-4503


At sight, for value received, pay to Monroe young, or order, Sixty dollars and charge to the account of Jo Robert ones,. Geo Mavisor Son. Ogdensburg,n.y.

## PLATE XXXV

A full set of the small letters arranged according to simllarity of form.
The digits require and merit more care than the alphabetic characters, and yet it is a common error to almost extirely neglect them in the writing lessons. Teach the correct forms, then allow time for care, and try to see that all figures are made plain and neat.

Plate XXXV
oceiuwnimx virss. *
tdpql $b k k j$ y $g z f$

$$
123456789 \text { \$ }
$$

## PLATE XXXVI.

Capital letters arranged according to similarity of form, Note the few simple principles involved in these letters.


Plate xxXivi. $\qquad$
$\bigcirc Q C G D E$
KønmuyvuPBRX $y$ yd \& $S Z$


Plate XXXVII Businéss

Dear Sir Yourstruly dames Thompson. George Iniman. Fred. A.Varner.

PLATE XXXVIII.
Correspondents have frequently asked for a specimen of rapid work in vertical writing. This plate illustrates such work, and is not presented as a copy but rather to show one characteristic development of our system.

```
-96-
```

$M+$ Samuel Gordon,
Peterboro, Ont.
Dear Sir, Enclosed please find a check for forty dollars to balance my account to date:
yours sincerely:
Robert Quickpary"


Fig. 1 .
Owing to an unfortunate circumstance these cuts could not in this edition be placed in their proper position to illustrate the suggestions. By,means of the numbers it will be easy to refer to them.


Fig. 10.

$$
-98
$$

$$
\nabla
$$

$?$
1

等

$\because \quad \begin{aligned} & 11 \\ & n\end{aligned}$
"

11

0
ro
$4-7$


